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Final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

Independent evaluation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

As part of the preparations for the final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF), the General Assembly requested that an independent evaluation of the New Agenda be undertaken. The Secretary-General established a 12-member Panel of Eminent Personalities to undertake that assignment. The report of the independent evaluation is contained in document A/57/___. In resolution 56/218 of 21 December 2001, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the independent evaluation as well as to make proposals on the modalities of the United Nations future engagement with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). The present report responds to that request.

Given that the independent evaluation has provided a detailed assessment of the achievements and problems in the implementation of the New Agenda, this report begins by drawing attention to the lessons learned in the implementation of the New Agenda. This is followed by proposals on the modalities of United Nations future engagement with the New Partnership, which is recommended as the successor policy framework for Africa's development. The report concludes with a number of recommendations to support the implementation of the New Partnership, with a focus on a carefully targeted set of actions by the African countries as well as the international community.

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I. Introduction

1. The United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF) was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/151 of 18 December 1991, which also outlined a schedule for the periodic review of the New Agenda. Subsequently, in resolution 51/32 of 6 December 1996 on the mid-term review of the New Agenda, the Assembly decided that the final review and appraisal of the New Agenda would be conducted in 2002. The Economic and Social Council, in its agreed conclusions 1999/2,[1] adopted at its 1999 coordination segment whose theme was "Development of Africa: implementation and coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system of initiatives on African development", requested the Secretary-General to commission an independent evaluation of the performance of the New Agenda (para. 22).

2. The General Assembly, in resolution 55/216 of 21 December 2000, stressed that the evaluation should be independent and of high-level quality. In June 2001, the Secretary-General established a 12-member Panel of Eminent Personalities, assisted by a small team of consultants, to undertake the independent evaluation. In resolution 56/218, the Assembly requested that the Secretary-General prepare a report on the evaluation, and decided that the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly for the Final Review and Appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s should meet during the fifty-seventh session of the Assembly to conduct the final review and appraisal of the implementation of the New Agenda and related initiatives on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General on the evaluation as well as on proposals by the Secretary-General on the modalities of the United Nations future engagement with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). This report is a response to the above-mentioned request, and draws upon the results of the independent evaluation.

3. Given that the independent evaluation has provided a detailed assessment of the achievements and problems in the implementation of the New Agenda, this report draws attention to the key lessons learned. It also makes proposals on the modalities of United Nations future engagement with the New Partnership and concludes by making a few recommendations on how the African countries and the international community could enhance the implementation of the New Partnership.

II. Lessons learned from the implementation of the New Agenda

4. The independent evaluation identified five main lessons that could be learned from the experience of the implementation of the New Agenda. The Secretary-General would like to make the following comments on these lessons:

5. **Peace and security are vital to development.** This lesson needs to be reiterated since, in spite of the fact that the New Agenda had acknowledged the vital link between peace and development, the decade of the 1990s was marked by more intractable, violent conflicts and war-related atrocities than Africa had ever witnessed. In all countries and subregions where violent conflicts and civil strife prevailed, development suffered a major setback. Indeed, the Secretary-General's 1998 report (A/52/871-S/1998/318) on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa identified the causes of conflict in the continent and noted that "Africa as a whole has begun to make significant economic and political progress in recent years, but in many parts of the continent progress remains threatened or impeded by conflict" (para. 2). In response to that report, the General Assembly set up an open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group of the General Assembly on the Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa, to monitor the implementation of the recommendations contained therein. The Working Group met in 2000 and 2001. An inter-agency and interdepartmental Task Force has been set up to closely monitor the implementation of the recommendations and prepare the Secretary-General's annual report to the Assembly. The progress report to be presented to the fifty-seventh session of the Assembly gives details on the actions that have been taken to manage conflicts in Africa. More recently, the Secretary-General submitted a report on the prevention of armed conflict to the Assembly and the Security Council (A/55/985-S/2001/574 and Corr.1) and the Council subsequently established the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa. Although a number of steps have been taken to mitigate and resolve conflicts in Africa during the decade, a lot still

needs to be done. Learning from the experience of the 1990s, economic programmes and projects devised by the New Partnership must proceed alongside the strengthening of the processes and institutions for conflict prevention and management; for it is axiomatic that there can be no development without peace and that peace is not durable in the absence of development. The United Nations system will continue to actively promote peace and security in Africa.

6. **Development cooperation with Africa requires a new orientation.** The need to review the orientation of international development cooperation with Africa is increasingly being recognized. The evaluation report highlighted two points, which need to be taken into account, in this regard. First, it recognized that the overriding reliance on liberalization, privatization and market reforms in Africa during the period of the New Agenda has shown its limits. Second, it observed that African countries, with the involvement of civil society, should be allowed to design, direct and implement their policies and programmes consistent with their needs and circumstances. This would ensure their ownership of the programmes. Ownership is an important ingredient which stimulates commitment, inspires confidence and enhances the prospects of active implementation.

7. **Commitments need to be honoured.** The New Agenda was a compact of mutual commitments and accountability by the African countries and the international community. However, the independent evaluation noted that the "components of the New Agenda were partially implemented by African Governments and hardly at all by the donor community". This partly explains the lack of success in its implementation. In future, it will be important for commitments to be honoured. The commitments made by the international community in the New Agenda regarding aid, trade and debt relief remain pertinent and would need to be pursued even more vigorously in the context of the New Partnership. Accountability for donor resources by African countries should be matched by review of donor performance in aid delivery as proposed in the evaluation report. As such, appropriate mechanisms should be established to monitor donor commitments to Africa and a review of these commitments should extend beyond aid policies and practices and encompass trade and agriculture.

8. An effective monitoring mechanism will have to be put in place to periodically assess progress and ascertain whether all parties are fulfilling their commitments. There are several options to consider in devising such a monitoring mechanism. One would be to establish a national monitoring mechanism in each African country, which, in addition to reporting on the Government's actions for a particular programme, for example, the New Partnership, will also report on the support that it is receiving from the international community. Such reports could be discussed at national consultative forums on the programme. This would have the obvious advantage of strengthening national ownership and awareness of the programme at the national level. Another option would be to anchor the monitoring mechanism to a subregional or regional organization which would have the responsibility of collecting and analysing data and information from the national Governments and organizing subregional or regional stakeholders meetings to periodically share experiences on the implementation of the programmes. Still another option would be to have an independent group of eminent personalities, supported by technical experts, undertake periodic review of agreed commitments in a programme and submit a report that could form the basis for peer review of performance. The peer review mechanism designed for the New Partnership has adopted the latter model.

9. Closely related to the need to devise a monitoring mechanism is the need to establish precise indicators and targets for goals that are set in a programme. Indicators are particularly useful in establishing common reference points for assessing progress or the lack of it. Special effort should be made at the very early stage of monitoring a programme to define selected targets and indicators to measure agreed goals. The New Agenda set two main targets, concerning the rate of growth of gross domestic product (GDP) and level of official development assistance (ODA). The independent evaluation noted that "the lack of indicators attached to the New Agenda's goals and policies, with the exception of growth and aid, did not permit precise monitoring of the implementation of the New Agenda by any of the actors involved". Without ample number of targets and indicators, assessing performance in the implementation of agreed goals in a programme all too often leads to mere generalizations.

10. **Strengthened advocacy for Africa's development remains essential.** One of the acknowledged contributions of the United Nations system in support of Africa's development, especially

in the last decade, has been in raising international awareness about the needs of the region. This has stimulated greater appreciation of not only the achievements but also the difficulties in the region. In consequence, the concerns of Africa have been highlighted in the declarations of the global conferences and the United Nations Millennium Declaration.[2] It is vitally important that the United Nations system remain in the vanguard of advocacy for international support for Africa's development. However, other development partners also have a role to play in advocating for African development.

11. **Improved coordination and collaboration among United Nations agencies in Africa can help.** As the activities of United Nations agencies have grown, so has the need for improved coordination and collaboration among them. This reflects the recognition that enhanced coordination and collaboration can produce results that exceed the sum total of each individual's contribution and magnify the overall impact of the system. To achieve these objectives will require more resources for Africa and also greater coherence in the operations. The modalities presented in the next section will address some of the concerns of the evaluation report.

III. Proposals on the modalities of the United Nations future engagement with the New Partnership for Africa's Development

12. The Secretary-General, in his keynote address to the 2001 high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council, pledged the support of the United Nations to the implementation of the New Partnership.

13. The modalities of the United Nations future engagement with the New Partnership are based on the following premises:

- Promoting peace and development in Africa remains a priority of the United Nations.
- The primary responsibility for implementing the New Partnership rests with Africa, its Governments and peoples. This is consistent with the principle of African ownership and leadership of the New Partnership and one of the key lessons learned from the New Agenda. The role of the United Nations system is to support African efforts.
- The agencies and organizations of the United Nations system have accumulated much experience in contributing to Africa's development which they will bring to bear in supporting the implementation of the New Partnership.
- The New Partnership is an integrated framework that links the issues of peace and security with governance and development. As such, the United Nations system response to its implementation requires a comprehensive approach that encompasses peace and security, humanitarian, human rights, economic and social issues.

14. There is commitment in the New Partnership to achieving several of the millennium development goals and this represents an important linkage with the United Nations Millennium Declaration. In addition, the New Partnership fully reflects the priorities for meeting the special needs of Africa in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, namely, supporting the political and institutional structures of emerging democracies in Africa; building peacekeeping capacity further, in cooperation with regional organizations; taking special measures to address the challenges of poverty reduction and sustainable development by increasing ODA, enhancing private capital flows and building capacities for trade; and helping Africa build its capacity to tackle the spread of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and other infectious diseases. Drawing on the lessons learned from the New Agenda, where the absence of a detailed set of indicators hampered efforts at precise monitoring of progress in its implementation, has resulted in the proposal that, where there are areas not covered by the targets developed for the millennium development goals, some selected indicators should be developed to monitor the goals in the New Partnership. This effort will be pursued in close consultation with the Steering Committee of the New Partnership.

15. The agencies and organizations of the United Nations system will support the implementation of the New Partnership through a variety of actions, including: enhanced advocacy, undertaking technical cooperation for capacity-building, mobilizing resources for the New Partnership, monitoring and reporting on

their activities in support of the New Partnership, and strengthened coordination in the delivery of programmes for the New Partnership. The engagement of the United Nations with the New Partnership will be at three levels: country, regional and global.

Country level

16. The country level is where the priorities of the New Partnership will be translated into national policies and programmes for implementation. The United Nations has developed important programming and coordination tools, namely, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and the common country assessment (CCA), that would be used to support country-level efforts in the implementation of the New Partnership. The basic framework for the involvement of the Bretton Woods institutions with African countries is the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). The PRSP is the operational framework for the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and is linked with the World Bank's Comprehensive Development Framework and the common assistance strategy. The independent evaluation recognized the complementarity among these programming tools of the agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, but also noted that they impose additional layers of consultations with Governments and reporting requirements for the agencies. Thus, while the United Nations system will use the existing programming tools as the main mechanisms for engagement at the national level, special attention will be given to the need to reduce the burden of coordination on the Governments and the agencies themselves.

Regional level

17. United Nations agencies and organizations increasingly recognize the importance of improved coordination and collaboration among themselves at the regional level, for this constitutes one significant way that the United Nations system would help to advance the implementation of the New Partnership. Thus, the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), formerly the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), affirmed that "Africa-wide programmes should provide the framework for increased collaboration at the regional and subregional levels".[3] It further emphasized the need "to shift the focus of inter-agency coordination increasingly to the regional level as a means to help to advance African leadership and ownership of their programmes" and encouraged United Nations system organizations "to participate in the inter-agency regional consultations being convened by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in order to determine how they would assist in the implementation" of the New Partnership.[4]

18. The annual regional consultation meeting[5] of United Nations agencies working in Africa held in October 2001 examined lessons learned from the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa and their application to providing a coordinated United Nations system response for the implementation of the New Partnership at the regional level. The following points emerged from these consultations: organizing agencies around thematic clusters where they have complementary competence is important; the system of lead and co-lead agencies for clusters is useful; the availability of seed money helps to nurture collaboration within clusters; and an effective framework for monitoring and reporting on activities of the agencies is important.

19. Drawing on these lessons, the United Nations agencies and organizations in Africa offered some practical recommendations for their future engagement in support of the New Partnership. Agencies will form clusters around these priority areas and selected agencies are to serve as lead agencies for each of the thematic areas. The lead agencies will assume the responsibility of ensuring a coordinated response by the United Nations system to the given thematic area of the New Partnership. Six thematic areas under the New Partnership were identified for collaboration among agencies. These were: infrastructure; human resource development, including education skills development, reversing the brain drain, and health; macroeconomic policies, trade, and diversification; information and communication technologies; agriculture and environment; and population and employment. An additional thematic cluster on humanitarian and refugees concerns was identified by the agencies and subsequently included.

20. The annual regional consultation meeting also agreed that ECA would prepare a report based on contributions from all agencies providing an

elaboration of the collective inter-agency efforts in support of the New Partnership. Reporting is to be carried out on a cluster basis around the seven thematic clusters identified by the consultation. The annual regional consultations will act as a vehicle for systematic information-sharing and dialogue on how the United Nations system as a whole is supporting African priorities collaboratively for the purpose of reporting on how the United Nations agencies are relating to the challenge posed by the New Partnership.

21. Following these consultations, there has been considerable dialogue between a number of United Nations agencies and the New Partnership secretariat in terms of direct support to the New Partnership. However, one of the key challenges for the United Nations system is to ensure a coherent response to the New Partnership consistent with the decisions taken at the second regular session of CEB and the regional consultations in October. To this effect, once developments relating to the New Partnership and its implementation mechanisms become clearer, the Executive Secretary of ECA will contact all members of the regional consultations to put into effect the agreed procedures towards the realization of a coherent and collective United Nations response to the New Partnership.

22. ECA will periodically brief CEB and the High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) on developments relating to the New Partnership and report to its Joint Conference of African Ministers of Finance and Ministers of Economic Development and Planning on the New Partnership. ECA will also continue to provide various forms of operational and technical support, as required, for the governance mechanisms of the New Partnership.

Global level

23. Over the past few years, the three principal organs of the United Nations, namely, the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, have been seized of issues in respect of Africa. In addition to establishing an Open-ended, Ad Hoc Working Group on the Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa, the Assembly has periodically deliberated on the implementation of the New Agenda and has established an Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole to conduct a final review and appraisal of the New Agenda.

24. For its part, the Security Council has held several meetings on the situation in Africa, undertook several fact-finding missions to Africa, held a meeting to discuss the impact of HIV/AIDS on peace and security in Africa and, as mentioned earlier, has established an Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and resolution in Africa (see S/2002/207 for the terms of reference thereof).

25. The Economic and Social Council has devoted a coordination segment and two high-level segments to Africa's development and is now considering the setting up of an ad hoc advisory group on African countries emerging from conflict. All this highlights the importance given to Africa-related issues at the intergovernmental level of the United Nations. To support the implementation of the New Partnership, the current level of intergovernmental engagement and focus on Africa needs to be sustained.

26. Fostering a coordinated and coherent United Nations response at the intergovernmental level to the interrelated issues of peace, security and development in Africa will further enhance the effectiveness and impact of United Nations work in Africa. To advance that process, it has been recommended by the evaluation panel that the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council hold joint meetings periodically, as a means of mobilizing international support for Africa in areas of conflict prevention and resolution, for which the Security Council has the mandate, and of post-conflict economic rehabilitation, reconstruction and development, for which the Economic and Social Council has a unique responsibility. In addition, as part of the United Nations support to the New Partnership, it is recommended that an item on United Nations support for the implementation of the New Partnership should be in the agenda of the General Assembly every year. To aid the Assembly in its deliberations, a report on Africa would be prepared beginning in 2004. This will enable all agencies to report on their work concerning support for the New Partnership.

27. The Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries is currently responsible for undertaking appropriate advocacy work for Africa at the global level; providing substantive servicing on African development to the

intergovernmental bodies at United Nations Headquarters (Committee for Programmes and Coordination (CPC), the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly) in their deliberations on Africa, thus facilitating inter-governmental debates and negotiations; acting as the secretariat to the interdepartmental and inter-agency Task Force charged with the follow-up on the recommendations of the Secretary General's 1998 report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa; and mobilizing international support, including through promoting South-South cooperation, for the implementation of the New Partnership. The Office of the Special Coordinator also serves as the secretariat of the Panel of High-level Personalities on African Development established in 1992 by the Secretary-General to advise him on the measures that the United Nations could take to encourage and sustain development in Africa.

28. The Secretary-General is in the process of reviewing how the United Nations will provide support to the New Partnership.

IV. Recommendations

29. The terms of reference of the independent evaluation included recommending a new successor arrangement to the New Agenda. **The independent evaluation noted that the New Partnership has emerged as the de facto policy framework for Africa and those committed to Africa's development must help make it work. The New Partnership is therefore recommended as the new development policy framework for Africa, around which the international community, including the United Nations system, should concert its efforts for Africa's development.** Effective implementation holds the keys to the successful implementation of the New Partnership. How the United Nations system would help in the implementation of the New Partnership has been discussed in the preceding section. The present concluding section offers a number of recommendations based on the lessons learned from the New Agenda, with a focus on carefully targeted set of actions by the African countries as well as the international community.

African countries

30. **The first essential task for African countries is to integrate the priorities of the New Partnership into their national development planning frameworks, whether these be the national strategic visions, or the national development plans adopted by the Governments.** This will not only enhance the implementation of the New Partnership but also give practical expression to the national ownership of the New Partnership. **Where a decision has also been made by Governments to pursue some of the priorities in a subregional or regional context, appropriate implementation instruments would have to be developed for such undertakings.**

31. A major lesson from the experience in the implementation of the New Agenda is **the need to establish a focal point for the New Partnership within the governmental structures in African countries. Such a focal point will support the process of integrating the New Partnership priorities into national development plans or strategies, undertake the monitoring of the implementation of the New Partnership, serve as a repository of information and data on New Partnership activities, help in promoting awareness about the New Partnership and foster a coordinated response to the New Partnership by the individual Governments.**

32. Financial commitment to a programme is a major hallmark of ownership and responsibility as well as of the importance attached thereto. **African Governments will need to allocate substantial financial resources from their capital budgets for the programmes of the New Partnership. Such action will at once signal their commitment to and ownership of the New Partnership, while at the same time ensuring its implementation.**

33. The lack of adequate capacity to coordinate external resources — both financial and technical — has emerged as a major issue in the negotiation, delivery and use of aid. There are several aspects to this problem. On the one hand, the limited capacity that exists within African countries is overwhelmed by the multiplicity of missions, reporting procedures and accounting standards that are imposed by various donors. **Africa's development partners can help by reducing the donors' requirements. On the other hand, African countries have to make a special**

effort to strengthen their capacity for aid negotiations and management.

34. African countries have undertaken several commitments in the New Partnership to improving governance and bettering economic management. These commitments have been voluntarily made to underscore Africa's determination to set, and adhere to, generally accepted standards and codes in areas of financial transparency, accountability, protecting the integrity of the monetary system, and banking and financial standards. The establishment of an African Peer Review Mechanism to track progress in complying with these codes will contribute significantly to promoting adherence to the agreed norms by African countries and to identifying capacity needs for individual countries. These are most welcome developments which deserve strong support. **African countries need to commit resources to building the kinds of institutions and developing the technical expertise to effectively manage the peer review process at the national and regional levels.**

35. One of the major underlying factors for the persistently weak performance of African economies is their heavy reliance on primary commodities, as illustrated in the evaluation report. The independent evaluation noted that Africa's export composition confirms its continuous dependence on commodities, with non-oil commodities accounting for 26.6 per cent of Africa's total exports, oil for 54.7 per cent and manufacturers for 18.4 per cent.[6] The consequences of that heavy dependence on commodities have been many and varied: they include the low-level of intra-African trade, the declining share of Africa's exports in world trade, the inability to take significant advantage of market access concessions, and the growing dependence on aid and debt financing, as a result of ever-declining income from exports. **Though the importance of diversification was emphasized in the New Agenda and is fully recognized by African Governments, there has been scant progress in this area, as the cited figures illustrate. African countries must exert great effort towards diversification within the New Partnership, in particular by creating an enabling environment for industrial development.**

International community

36. International support for, and interest in, the New Partnership have been significant. This needs to be buttressed by tangible actions, especially in the areas of trade, aid, debt and capacity-building. In the past few years, a number of initiatives in the area of trade have been enacted by several developed countries to provide better market access for developing countries. African countries will benefit from those initiatives. Moreover, the Doha Development Agenda has laid the foundation for negotiations on a wide range of trade issues. However, it is well known that the post-Doha work programme will impose additional trade negotiations and a rules-compliance burden on African countries. They will therefore require more time to adjust to some of the newly agreed rules, to develop strong trade-related policy-making and negotiating capacity and to invest in building their productive capacity to gain from further liberalization of trade. At the same time, much more needs to be done to eliminate a range of trade barriers that continue to impede Africa's exports, such as subsidies that hinder the export of African agricultural products, tariff peaks and other non-tariff barriers. **A renewed and strengthened commitment by the developed nations to eliminating the various constraints on the export of Africa's processed, semi-processed and agricultural goods will potentially benefit the implementation of the New Partnership. Moreover, enhanced international support for the efforts of African countries to diversify their economies, in particular removing their supply-side constraints, will help Africa to better take advantage of existing market access opportunities.**

37. At the International Conference on Financing for Development held in Monterrey, Mexico, in March 2002, promises of increased ODA were announced by some donor countries. While the new pledges will contribute to reversing the declining trend in aid of recent years, the measures may be insufficient with respect to the magnitude of the tasks in Africa. **Aid to Africa would need to be at least doubled to increase investment in education, health and infrastructures, so as to stimulate productivity and economic growth which are critical factors in poverty reduction. To achieve the desired impact, increased assistance must be complemented by efforts by donors and recipients to improve aid effectiveness.**

38. As regards external debt, there is wide recognition of the need for concerted efforts by the donor/creditor community and the heavily indebted poor countries (HIPCs) themselves, including faster, deeper and broader debt relief under the enhanced HIPC Initiative. In this regard, resources committed to the Initiative should be increased to ensure that the Initiative is fully financed. **The debt sustainability analysis for HIPCs should be based on more realistic projections of export earnings of beneficiary countries.**

39. technical assistance has long been an important component of ODA to Africa. However, a new perspective has been evolving concerning the importance of redirecting resources allocated by bilateral donors for technical assistance to human and institutional capacity-building in Africa. **There is no better time for Africa's development partners to convert technical assistance resources to capacity-building in Africa, to stimulate economic growth and industrial development, than now when the implementation of the New Partnership, an African-owned and African-led programme, is under way.**

V. Conclusions

40. **Africa is at an important turning point, marked by many encouraging trends and developments. The Constitutive Act of the African Union has come into force, paving the way for the transition from the Organization of African Unity to the African Union. Some countries hitherto convulsed by conflict and strife are shaking off that legacy and making the transition to democracy and post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction. The launching of the New Partnership reinforces Africa's resolve to chart its development course. The confluence of African leadership and ownership of the New Partnership, the strong expression of support by the international community for the New Partnership and the commitment of the United Nations system to offering a coordinated and coherent response to the needs of the New Partnership provides fresh momentum for Africa's development. The Plan of Action for Africa adopted by the Group of Eight industrialized countries at their Summit in Kananaskis, Canada, in June 2002 represents an important expression of international support for the New Partnership. There is an opportunity to be seized in Africa's development, and African countries and their development partners, including the agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, must seize that opportunity in a creative and collaborative manner.**

Notes

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/54/3/Rev.1), chap. V, para. 6.

[2] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[3] See summary of the conclusions of ACC at its first regular session of 2001 (ACC/2001/4), para. 27.

[4] See summary of the conclusions of ACC at its second regular session of 2001 (ACC/2001/5), para. 8 (c).

[5] The decisions at the annual regional consultation meeting, reflected in this report, draw from the note by ECA entitled "The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD: recent developments and support by the United Nations system)" (CEB/2002/HLCP/CRP.2) of 25 February 2002.

[6] The report on the independent evaluation of the New Agenda indicates that this export composition existed at the end of the 1990s.